

# ***TURKEY HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL***

October 29, 2013  
***Minutes of Meeting***

Meeting called to order at 5:06 p.m.

Present were Timothy Santry, Heidi Champagne, Beth Arsenault, Bob Meek-LaVeck, Wendy Bertrand, and Laura Friend

## **Future Meeting Dates**

- December 3<sup>rd</sup>, January 21<sup>st</sup>, February 25<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, and May 6<sup>th</sup>. All meetings will be held on Tuesdays at 5pm in the THMS Conference Room. Possible dates will be added as needed due to changes to Budget or School Improvement Plan.

## **Spring 2013 MCAS**

- THMS continues to be a Level 2 school according to the state's accountability scores, however being in the 72<sup>nd</sup> percentile of state schools we are still a High Performing School. Our Level 2 status is due to students with high-needs and disabilities continuing to perform poorly on the MCAS, as shown by dips in their Composite Performance Index scores and how many of them scored Proficient or Advanced. We have had significant increase for low-income student scores with 81% growth, up from the state's 75%.
- 44% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students scored Advanced on the Math MCAS, and THMS was listed as 67<sup>th</sup> out of 454 schools in Massachusetts.

## **Changes to THMS**

- Grade 4 has 129 students broken up onto 2 teams, one with 2 teachers and the other with 3 instead of 5 separate classrooms. Each team has one Reading/Math and one Writing Specialist. They were trained in 6 Traits over the summer.
- Assistant Principal Heidi Champagne is now full time at only the middle school. Due to Budget restraints, THMS no longer has a Technology teacher, a Dean of Students, a .6 science teaching position, and 2 tutors which mainly affects the Achieve program.

## **Community Outreach and Communication**

- On school website, there is a new "Ask Mrs. Champagne" portion where parents can post questions or concerns with feedback from Heidi.

- THMS has a new Twitter feed that is updated at least once a week on happenings and upcoming events, many times with photos.
- PowerSchool help is available immediately to parents either through Mrs. Champagne or Mrs. Arsenault.
- Miles for Myles in October was a great success, and due to the dueling schools to encourage student and faculty involvement, there was a 25% increase in participation. THMS won the challenge of the most participants and was awarded \$1000 to be put towards an assembly to encourage or educate students on making healthy choices. The council will consider ideas for this. Wendy Bertrand brought up the idea of addressing Internet Safety/Responsible Social Networking.
- For the Veterans' Day Assembly, students were encouraged to invite family members who had served in the military to come and be recognized for their service. The keynote speakers will be the parents of a student who both are active members of the military.
- In November the Turkey Trot will encourage students to donate canned goods for the local food pantry.
- THMS will again host the Great Books Learning Walk, when other districts send teachers to observe our teaching practices. This will take place on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Fred Hang will stay with us for the 14<sup>th</sup> for Professional Development on leading a Great Books discussion on non-fiction and on the 15<sup>th</sup> to observe other classrooms or otherwise help teachers around Great Books discussions.

### **Updated School Improvement Plan**

- In regards to Goal #2, which supports our emotional development curriculum, we purchased Step 2 Books for Grade 4 and 5 Guidance classes. Over the summer, a group of teachers and guidance counselors met for Executive Functioning and designed a Tier 1//2/3 checklist for teachers that streamline the needs of students at each tier. Continuing programs include Peer Mediation, Big Sibs Lil' Sibs, and of course our Responsive Classroom/Developmental Designs curriculum.
- In regards to Goal #3, our technology goal, we will try to get all grades to use the new.schoolnotes.com website so that this is consistent and predictable for parents to find and use. Mrs. Bertand also gave us the fantastic news that instead of individual RFF's from the PTO, each building will be receiving a new iPad cart.

### **Miscellaneous**

- THMS has been chosen to pilot the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math and 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA PARCCs. "The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a multi-state consortium working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in English and math anchored in what it takes to be ready for college and careers." Mr. Santry will choose 2 of the 5 classes in each grade for the piloting. For these students there will be one Performance Assessment in March and a Summative Assessment in June. While it is extra work, this will let us know where we stand on our alignment with the Common Core.

- Mr. Santry and Mrs. Champagne are both in the midst of training for a Race To the Top sponsored program, the National Institute of School Leadership (NISL), a “heavily researched and fully field-tested program designed to assist districts across the state with leadership development efforts... retention of effective leaders, and most importantly, to improve student achievement.
- At the next meeting we will discuss Supplies and Requisition of budget and staffing.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 5pm.